

From: SHOCK4952@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Your Honor,

After reading and listening to the mass of information being presented to the general consumer regarding a potential miscarriage of justice, it would appear to me that I may have a rather unpopular opinion. I'd like explain my thoughts, but before I do...I need to clarify that I do NOT work for, recieve monys from, nor do I get any special benefits from either party in doing so.

We've seen what Apple computer tried to do in the past, by making everything they make propriatary. The average working person can't afford the equipment, let alone the software that works ONLY on their system. Tandy corporation (Radio Shack) tried to do the same thing, and nearly sunk them financially.....because of Microsoft. Seems to me that if a competitor can't come up with a competitive system, ad a competitivte cost...they cry monopoly. If any legal decision favors these flag carrying towncriers of 'healthy competition'.....the ONLY ones that will benefit from it, will be them!

I don't know if I'm adequately articulating my position, but I just feel if 10,000 people can easily afford to buy a computer, and use software that's readily available, it's better for those 10,000 people than if say only 1,500 could afford to pay the EXTREMELY high prices of a system made by Apple or Sun technologies. It's true the profit to Apple and/or Sun is considerably higher from these 1,500 than the 10,000 working class like myself, but in my opinion...through all the smoke and mirrors...that's what this is REALLY all about. \$\$\$\$\$\$ Yes...monopoly CAN be a bad thing, but the only thing Microsoft is guilty of is providing an easy to use product at a low cost. Something the others just can't seem to do.

Go with your instincts, and stick with "Of the People, By the People.....and FOR the people". It's an old system...but it still works.

Thanks for your time,

Steve Shockley
PO BOX 237
West Creek NJ 08092

PS: It would interest me greatly to know if you ever recieve this letter.